

SENATE BILL NO. 383

INTRODUCED BY COCCHIARELLA

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING ONE-TIME PROFESSIONAL STIPENDS TO NEWLY HIRED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Professional stipends for NEWLY HIRED certified speech-language pathologists AND AUDIOLOGISTS. (1) Pursuant to subsection (4), a one-time stipend of \$3,000 must be provided to each NEWLY HIRED speech-language pathologist OR AUDIOLOGIST who is certified by the American speech-language-hearing association if the speech-language pathologist OR AUDIOLOGIST is:

- (a) a full-time speech-language pathologist OR AUDIOLOGIST; or
- (b) certified as a speech-language pathologist OR AUDIOLOGIST; and
- (c) a full-time employee of:
 - (i) a Montana public school district, as defined in 20-6-101;
 - (ii) an education cooperative, as described in 20-7-451;
 - (iii) the Montana school for the deaf and blind, as described in 20-8-101; or
 - (iv) a state youth correctional facility, as defined in 41-5-103.

(2) A speech-language pathologist OR AUDIOLOGIST is eligible for the stipend in the school year beginning July 1 after the speech-language pathologist OR AUDIOLOGIST is NEWLY HIRED BY AN ENTITY LISTED IN SUBSECTION (1)(C) AND certified by the American speech-language-hearing association.

(3) By March 1, the superintendent of public instruction shall distribute stipend payments to each eligible speech-language pathologist OR AUDIOLOGIST.

(4) The obligation for funding the professional stipend is an obligation of the state. This section may not be construed to require a school district to provide a stipend to a qualifying ~~teacher~~ SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST OR AUDIOLOGIST without a payment from the state to the district. If the funding for professional stipends is less than the total amount for which Montana speech-language pathologists OR AUDIOLOGISTS qualify, the superintendent of public instruction shall prorate the funding to the districts in a manner that provides the

1 same amount of stipend to each qualifying speech-language pathologist OR AUDIOLOGIST.

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
4 integral part of Title 20, chapter 4, part 1, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 4, part 1, apply to [section 1].

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6 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2005.

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